

REMARKS

Claims 5-7 and 12-14 are pending in this application. The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b); and rejects claims 1-3 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants cancel claims 1-4 and 8-11, rewrite claims 5-7 in independent form and amend claims 12-14 to depend from claims 5-7. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of instant claims 5-7 and 12-14 if rewritten to include the subject matter of any intervening and base claims from which they depend.

I. Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Fichter; rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Barra; rejects claims 1, 4, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kulickova; rejects claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Whitehead; and rejects claims 1, 3, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hideo. Applicants cancel claims 1-4 and 8-10, amend allowable claims 5-7 to include the subject matter of the intervening and base claims from which they depend, amend claims 12-14 to depend from claims 5-7, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

Instant claims 1-4 and 8-11 are hereby canceled. Allowable claims 5-7 and 12-14 are amended to include the limitations of the base claim from which they depend in order to render them allowable. Thus, the foregoing rejections are moot.


In view of the foregoing claims 5-7 and 12-14 are patentable over the foregoing references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are earnestly solicited.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 5-7 and 12-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 29, 2007

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